GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:794
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2007
PRICES OF CANCER MEDICINES
Veerendra Kumar Shri M.P.

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the treatment cost of cancer is very high and beyond the reach of the common man;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to reduce the prices of cancer medicines by providing incentives to drug producers and waiving customs and excise duties on these drugs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARTLIAMENTARY AFFIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a) to (c):Prices of most of the anti cancer drugs are quite high. In order to reduce the prices of cancer medicines the Government has recommended to the Department of Revenue for Customs and Excise Duty exemption for all anti cancer drugs. Moreover in the proposed Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy, 2006 it has been proposed, inter-alia, that Government would completely exempt all anti cancer drugs (bulk and formulations) from all types of Central taxes, excise duty, import duty etc, and effort would be made that the benefit would be passed on to the consumers. Industry and trade would be requested to reduce their margins to the barest minimum level and pass on the benefit to the consumers. A Cancer Medicines Assistance Scheme as a public − private partnership model has also been proposed for providing cheaper medicines to the patients through cancer hospitals.

Draft National Pharmaceutical Policy was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting held on 11.1.2007. The Cabinet has referred the Policy to Group of Ministers (GOM). The First meeting of the GOM was held on 10.4.2007 and the Second meeting was held on 12-9-2007. No time frame has been set for finalizing the National Pharmaceuticals Policy.